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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : No, Sir. This is a Central Institute and our Government will not have a say in the matter of admission. It is a Regional Institute and each region will have its own quota.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Can the Hon. Minister give the information as to the total number of students that will be trained on an all-India basis at least in the first year?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : It is not done on an all-India basis. It is done on a regional basis. It is the Southern Regional Institute and it is expected that they would start with 100 students next year.

Preparation of indigenous medicines

* 29 *Q*.—SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the sources from which the ingredients used in the preparation of indigenous medicines at the College of Integrated Medicine, Madras, are obtained?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The ingredients are obtained from the contractors by inviting tenders. Some of the green herbs, leaves, etc., that are grown in the Medicinal Farm at Arumbakkam, are supplied by the Farm.

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR : இதுபற்றி மற்றப் பகுதிகளில் தேவையாக இருந்தால், அவற்றை எப்படி அரசியலார் வாங்குகிறார்கள் ?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : நான் முன்பே சொன்னேன். கண்டிராக்டர்களிடமிருந்து டெண்டர் வரவழைத்து வாங்கப் படுகிறது. இதற்கு முன் ஒரு கேள்வி கேட்டார். பிரிண்டெட் லிஸ்டில் சுமார் 44 பேர் ரெகக்னைஸ்டு கண்டிராக்டர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள்.

Pre-Professional Courses

* 30 *Q*.—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to award merit scholarships to students on the basis of a competitive test or otherwise in the pre-professional courses; and

(*b*) if so, what it is?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : May I know, Sir, whether such a scheme was in force in professional colleges prior to the starting of these pre-professional courses?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The question relates to pre-professional courses. We do not have any such thing even in respect of professional courses and there was no competitive test. As a matter of fact, the performance of each year was taken into consideration and the scholarship was given.

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SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Government consider the question of granting merit scholarships in respect of these pre-professional courses?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I do not think it will be necessary.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Questions are over.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE DECISION OF THE STATE AIDED SCHOOL MANAGERS TO CLOSE DOWN CERTAIN SCHOOLS.

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Mr. Chairman, under rule 41 (1) of the Legislative Council Rules, I invite the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Finance to matter of urgent public importance, viz., the situation arising out of the recent orders of Government with regard to grant-in-aid to aided elementary schools and the decision of the State Aided School Managers to close down certain schools and to give notice to the teachers terminating their services consequent on the new 'free education policy' of the Government. Sir, reference was made by hon. Members to this subject in the recent debate on the Governor's Address. 3–10 a.m. The latest development is that actually notices have been issued by the Correspondents to almost all the aided elementary school teachers stating specifically that "the Managements terminate their services with effect from 1st June 1959 and that they will be relieved on 31st May 1959." The plight of the teachers needs immediate attention at the hands of the Government. If their services are thus terminated and even though they get re-employed, they will be faced with reduction in their emoluments and unfortunate position affecting their pension, etc. This should be guarded against. The Correspondents of the aided elementary schools who have decided to levy fees have raised the rates of school fees abnormally for all standards and the parents of the children are affected thereby. Even these managements who have proposed to levy higher rates of tuition fees have given notice of termination of the services of the existing teachers. The attention of the Hon. the Minister for Education is, therefore, invited to this situation so that the Government may take prompt steps to relieve the distress of the teachers as well as the parents as a result of the latest orders of the Government. Perhaps, a conference with the representatives of the State Aided School Managements' Association would solve the tangle, because I feel the issues were forced on them too abruptly and they may be given time to adjust themselves to the changed policy of the Government. Anyway, prompt measures should be taken in the matter and I am sure the Hon. the Minister for Education would take necessary action and take the Legislature into confidence and tell us the specific steps proposed to be taken to allay the fears of the teachers, the parents and the aided school managements. The Hon. Minister would readily agree that the aided school managements have been doing good work and that they should not be shuffled out all too abruptly.